

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in response to a final *Office Action* mailed on March 19, 2004.

Claims 46-72 are pending in the application. Claims 46-72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,349,301 to Mitchell *et al.* (hereinafter "Mitchell") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,342,880 to Rosenberg, *et al.* (hereinafter "Rosenberg"). Applicant respectfully traverses Examiner's rejections respectfully requests reconsideration of the Application in light of the remarks below.

I. Claims 46-72

Claims 46-72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Mitchell in view of Rosenberg. In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. And the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. See MPEP 2142.

Mitchell fails to teach or suggest "including force information in a chat message, the force information being configured to cause a haptic sensation to be output when the chat message is delivered to a client machine," as claimed in claim 46. Rather, Mitchell describes a method in which, for example:

The server computer administers a world database that contains the properties for each object associated with all of the users. Further, when a change occurs in the [virtual world environment] VWE, the server computer updates the VWE representation on the client computers only for the users that are affected by the change in their "bystander region," i.e., only for a change that an object such as an avatar that is associated with a user can potentially sense. Also, the ability of a particular object to sense a specific type of change in the VWE is determined by the properties of the object that are contained in the local database.

Col. 6, line 63 - Col. 7, line 6.

Likewise, Rosenberg fails to teach or suggest "including force information in a chat message, the force information being configured to cause a haptic sensation to be output when the chat message is delivered to a client machine," as claimed in claim 46. Thus, this aspect of claim 46 is not taught by Mitchell or Rosenberg. Accordingly, the Examiner should remove the rejection and allow claim 46.

The Examiner references U.S. Patent No. 6,281,651 to Hanpaa, *et al.* and U.S. Patent No. 6,693,626 to Rosenberg in the relation to the rejection of claim 46. See Office Action, page 3. The Examiner does not state that either of these references can be combined with Mitchell. Accordingly, Applicant reserves the right to present arguments as to the relevance of these references.

Further, to combine reference teachings under 35 U.S.C. § 103, "there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings." MPEP § 2143. In the Office Action, the Examiner states, "[t]herefore, it would have been obvious ... to modify the technique...taught by Rosenberg into the Mitchell's apparatus. Doing so would provide the security, quick and simple process to communicate on the chat session." Office Action, page 3. Respectfully, "provid[ing] the security, quick and simple process to communicate on the chat session" does not provide a teaching, suggestion, or motivation to combine the Mitchell and Rosenberg references. Thus, the combining of Mitchell and Rosenberg is improper.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 46 is allowable. Since dependent claims 47-55 depend from claim 46, claims 47-55 are allowable as well for at least the reasons stated herein with reference to claim 46. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 47-55.

II. Claim 56, 62, and 68

The Office Action does not address independent claims 56, 62, and 68. Claims 56, 62, and 68 are allowable for at least the reasons stated herein with reference to claim 46. Since dependent claims 57-61, 63-67, and 69-72 depend from one of independent claims 56, 62, and

68, they are allowable as well. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 56-72.

III. Notice of References Cited

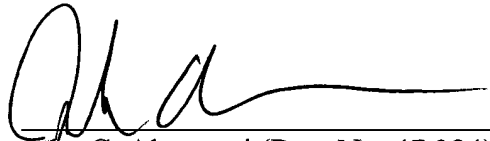
The Office Action includes a Notice of References Cited. Applicant respectfully disagrees with whether these references are relevant prior art, and respectfully reserves the right to present such arguments and other material should the Examiner maintain rejection of Applicant's claims, based upon the References Cited.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 46-72 are allowable. A favorable Office Action is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions or suggestions of a nature necessary to expedite the prosecution of the application, or to place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is courteously requested to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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